



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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## President Bush Touts Education Reform in Delaware

President Bush touted his *No Child Left Behind* reform plan in Delaware yesterday, focusing on how the proposal establishes a rigorous accountability system that will help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.

"We must have accountability to determine whether or not every child is learning," the President said. "And if children are learning, we'll praise the teachers and principals and superintendents. But if not, instead of just moving children through the system as if they don't matter, we address the problems early before it's too late. Strong accountability systems lead to reforms."

President Bush continued: "We're going to spend more money, and that's important, but as well, there needs to be a systemic change to not only encourage parental involvement, but to recognize that the systems have got to be geared on a child-by-child basis. And good accountability measures do that."

Since 1990, Congress has spent more than \$80 billion on the Title I program, but achievement scores remain generally stagnant. The president's message is clear: We must encourage states and school districts to implement innovative solutions to educate our children, but we must also hold them accountable for improving student achievement.

### Message of the Day

***No Child Left Behind gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.***

- ❑ *Giving states and local school districts more decision-making flexibility will improve student performance.*
- ❑ *But we can't have real accountability without real consequences for chronic failure.*
- ❑ *The achievement gap cannot stand. We have a moral obligation to bring real change to 35 years of failed education policies -- and to pass this bill for our children's future.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- On the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress, 73 percent of white students performed at or above the basic level in 4th grade reading, compared with just 40 percent of Hispanic students and only 36 percent of African American students.
- The Bush proposal establishes a rigorous accountability system, including asking states to design and implement annual math and reading tests for students in grades three through eight.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"The hard lesson of the past is that money alone cannot be the vehicle for change in our schools. If our goal truly is to leave no child behind, there must be accountability for results."* **House Education & the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner, March 22, 2001**